



Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 003300-870

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)

HANS HALLÉN *et al.*)

Application No.: 09/988,666)

Filed: November 20, 2001)

For: SURFACE COATINGS)

Group Art Unit: 1742

Examiner: Andrew L. Oltmans

Confirmation No.: 9034

8/20
04/11/03

RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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APR 10 2003
GROUP 1700

Sir:

In response to the Official Action of March 18, 2003, Applicants elect with traverse the claims of Group II (*i.e.*, Method Claims 12 to 14 and 19 to 20).

It respectfully is submitted that Claims 1 to 11 and 15 to 18 could be prosecuted in the same Application without serious burden in spite of the different areas of classification that are indicated in the Official Action. Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to use his discretion under 35 U.S.C. §121 and withdraw the restriction requirement since the search and examination of all claims can be accomplished without hardship. Such examination is urged to make possible increased efficiency for all concerned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 8, 2003